



Light and
Truth

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ARE YOU SAVED? * PART 1

Are there Few that be Saved?

Jesus of Nazareth came into the world to seek and save those who are lost. All who heard Him were amazed at the gracious words He spoke. So simply He taught deep spiritual truths using such illustrations as the sower and the seed! As Jesus went through the cities and villages of Israel teaching the Word of God, someone asked Him a very important question:

Jesus Christ answered him, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:22-24). Dear young reader, do you realise it is high time to consider this matter of salvation? (See Romans 13:11-12).

Salvation is not something to be careless about. It is not something you can have on your own terms or conditions. The way into the kingdom of God is a strait or narrow gate. In the Holy Scriptures we read the words of Jesus Christ: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait

is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

I am certain that many of my young readers want to go to heaven, to enjoy the presence of God our loving Father for ever. But are you willing to submit to Him as your King? Are you one who wants to enter God's kingdom on your own terms? Do you want to give up only the sins that bring you trouble and shame? Then I plead with you to repent and turn from rebellion and pride, which will keep you on the broad way that leads to destruction. It is very necessary to know that you are saved, because if you die unsaved you will perish. If you are not saved your end will be eternal judgment and damnation.

Do You "Know"?

Dear Reader, either you are saved and you know it, or you are perishing. The apostle John wrote to the churches: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life" (1

John 5:13). Jesus Christ died and rose again from the dead to save you from eternal judgment. He suffered the wrath and judgment of God for sin in your place that you may know you are saved. "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

The debt of sin had to be paid by the sinless Son of God before we could be reconciled. He rose again from the dead and entered into heaven. There He poured out His Blood before His Father. Now He could forgive all our past sins and give us the Holy Spirit to come and dwell in us.

Gate of Salvation

If you desire to enter this gate of salvation you must seek it with all your heart, for there are few that be saved. It is not that God does not want you to be saved, for He "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

Salvation is for everyone. There is no difference in the sight of God; He is no respecter of persons. We read in His Word, 'Are we better than they? No, in no wise ... there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.'" (Romans 3:9,22-23).

The Lord Jesus once took a journey through Samaria and, being weary, sat on a well. There he met a woman of the Samaritans, who was well known as a sinner. Jesus spoke to her of salvation, and straight away she forsook her life of uncleanness and believed on Him as the Christ, the

Saviour of the world. She went to the men in her city who were full of lust and uncleanness and spoke to them about her meeting with Jesus Christ. When they heard her testimony, they went to see Jesus for themselves. Many of them believed, saying to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." (John 4:42).

Why Only Few?

Why then *are there few that be saved?* The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3-5). God's servant Paul proclaimed, "The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). Without repentance from sin, there can be no forgiveness. Are you willing to repent and be one of the few?

There was a time when "Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:2-3).

This child was delighted to be in the presence of Jesus. He was not a proud child but one who had humbled himself. Many children are very proud. Their pride is often encouraged by their parents who laugh at their foolish ways instead of training them up in the way that they should go. Such children are only being prepared to perish. This child came to Jesus

because his trust and confidence was in his Creator, Jesus Christ. Thus Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4). Pride keeps so many from being saved.

1. "Not Many Wise Men"

We read in the scriptures, "Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Corinthians 1:26). *'Not many'* is only another way of saying, *'a few'*. Those who have the learning and wisdom of this world cannot be saved while they depend on earthly understanding.

The wisdom of God is the preaching of the cross. This is the message of the gospel, "That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The only way a man can be saved is to believe the gospel. The prophet Jeremiah declared, "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom" (Jeremiah 9:23). Those who trust in their own wisdom cannot be saved except they repent.

2. "Not Many Mighty"

Only a few mighty men are saved. Many men trust in their riches, and Jesus said, "How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:24). We read, "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by

any means redeem his brother ... that he should still live for ever" (Psalms 49:6,7,9).

It is written in the scriptures, "Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them ... power belongeth unto God" (Psalm 62:9-11).

Not only trusting in wealth, but also the love of money will keep you from being saved. Millions are slaves to the lotteries, casinos, gambling shops and poker machines. They may not be rich, but the love of money drives them to spend their time trying to get money quickly, without labour. Except they repent they shall perish. Others trust in the power of their position or status in life, not knowing that any power they have is given them by God. Jesus told the Roman governor, Pilate, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above" (John 19:11).

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30). Pride so filled his heart that he refused to repent. He trusted his own power in spite of God's warning through Daniel. As a result, he suffered seven years' madness.

Only when he repented and gave the glory to God, his reason returned to him. "And at the end of the days I

Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High...all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:34-35).

It was God who had given Nebuchadnezzar such honour and majesty. But he boasted of his power like so many who say, "My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17). God took away Nebuchadnezzar's power until he humbled himself. Those who trust in their own power cannot be saved. To them the preaching of the cross is foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.

3. "Not Many Noble"

Lastly, not many noble men are saved. Men who love to be held in honour and esteem cannot be saved. Jesus taught His disciples not to be like the hypocrites who pray and give money, "that they may have glory of men" (Matthew 6:2). He said, "all their works they do for to be seen of men" (Matthew 23:5).

Such men are like whitewashed sepulchres. They only appear beautiful on the outside, but inwardly before God they are stinking. Hypocrites cannot escape the damnation of hell. The Lord Jesus

asked a searching question of those who wanted to kill Him because they loved the praises of men: "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" (John 5:44; see also verse 16). Yet it is not God's will "that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

It is God's will that you be saved. God now commands you to repent. One day you will have to stand before Jesus Christ who died for your sins to be your Saviour. In that day He will be your Judge, "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained," that is, Jesus Christ whom He raised from the dead (Acts 17:31). "Now is the day of salvation"(2 Corinthians 6:2). "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18).

The Lord Jesus lovingly calls you to come to Him. He says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"(John 6:37). Do not turn away from Him who loved you and gave Himself for you. He says, 'How often would I have gathered YOU even as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings' (Luke 13:34). God forbid that you should be like the many who "would not" come to Him and perished!